

pictures
attached

SAVE OUR SHORELINE

REBUTTAL FOR "NATURAL RETREAT OF BLUFFS"
OR "SHORELINE NEGLECT"

By Ann Baker of Solana Beach Coastal Preservation Association

It is impossible for me to understand why anyone would think that "natural retreat" of the bluffs in Solana Beach & Encinitas would be the best plan for our bluffs and beaches. **We are not talking about new development being on these bluffs, but about a well-established residential area that started over 70 years ago.** The idea of this 'Shoreline Neglect' by just letting the bluffs and the buildings on them fall into the ocean is ludicrous.

Natural retreat will not bring the beaches back to our cities. Planned retreat (shoreline neglect) will make our children and the public less safe on the beach. Planned retreat is the confiscation of private property. Planned retreat is not esthetically pleasing and is very costly to the public in terms of lost tax revenue. The preservation projects that protect the bluffs are not costing the general public a single dime, nor are they taking any of the beach from the public. Nor do they cause erosion. The erosion is there already. That is the problem.

I have not heard one person from the Cal Beach Advocates that wants 'natural retreat' ('shoreline neglect') say at what point the erosion should be stopped? The City of Solana Beach is completely developed from the beach to East of the Freeway. **Ask CalBeach Advocates how many people their organization represents?** When one of the Solana Beach City Council members asked Mr. Scott Williams on 4-10-01 at a hearing regarding the EIR report, Williams said, "What does it matter?"

As the Army Corps of Engineers has now acknowledged the beaches have been systematically robbed of sand with public projects over the past forty years. Now CBA wants to rob homeowners of their homes. Did Mr. Williams tell you that he lives across the street from the homes on the west side of Pacific? If our homes go into the ocean he then has an oceanfront home. I question his motives.

With 'shoreline neglect', after the first row of condos and houses and the bluffs on which they stand erode away there will be no more Fletcher Cove or Tide Park. As it is now, you have seen Fletcher Cove get smaller and smaller each year. Without protection the erosion has speeded up 20 fold in the last 20 years. It will reach Pacific and Sierra Streets much sooner that you think, because there is no sand to protect these bluffs as there was until we were robbed of sand from the North in just the last 50 years. It took many years for its effects to reach us, but now it is here and it is not going to go away. 'Natural retreat' or 'shoreline neglect' will exacerbate the entire problem.

Remember that our bluffs can not be compared to the Gulf Coast or beaches in New Jersey where they are often ravaged by hurricane forces. Nor is there any similarity even to the beaches in Del Mar, where they will have to worry about the ocean rising with global warming.

These are 85 foot bluffs that are natural seawalls. With proper protection they can function as they have for hundreds of years. They can continue to protect Solana Beach. But if we decide to let them crumble into the Sea we will loose what little beach we have left. It will be like the person that never takes care of his teeth, and lets his cavities grow. Without fillings and maintenance the teeth waste away until there is not anything left.

These seawalls can be saved. Save Our Shoreline. If not now then tell me at what point would you try to save the bluffs and beaches as the ocean continues to eat away at the base of the bluffs?

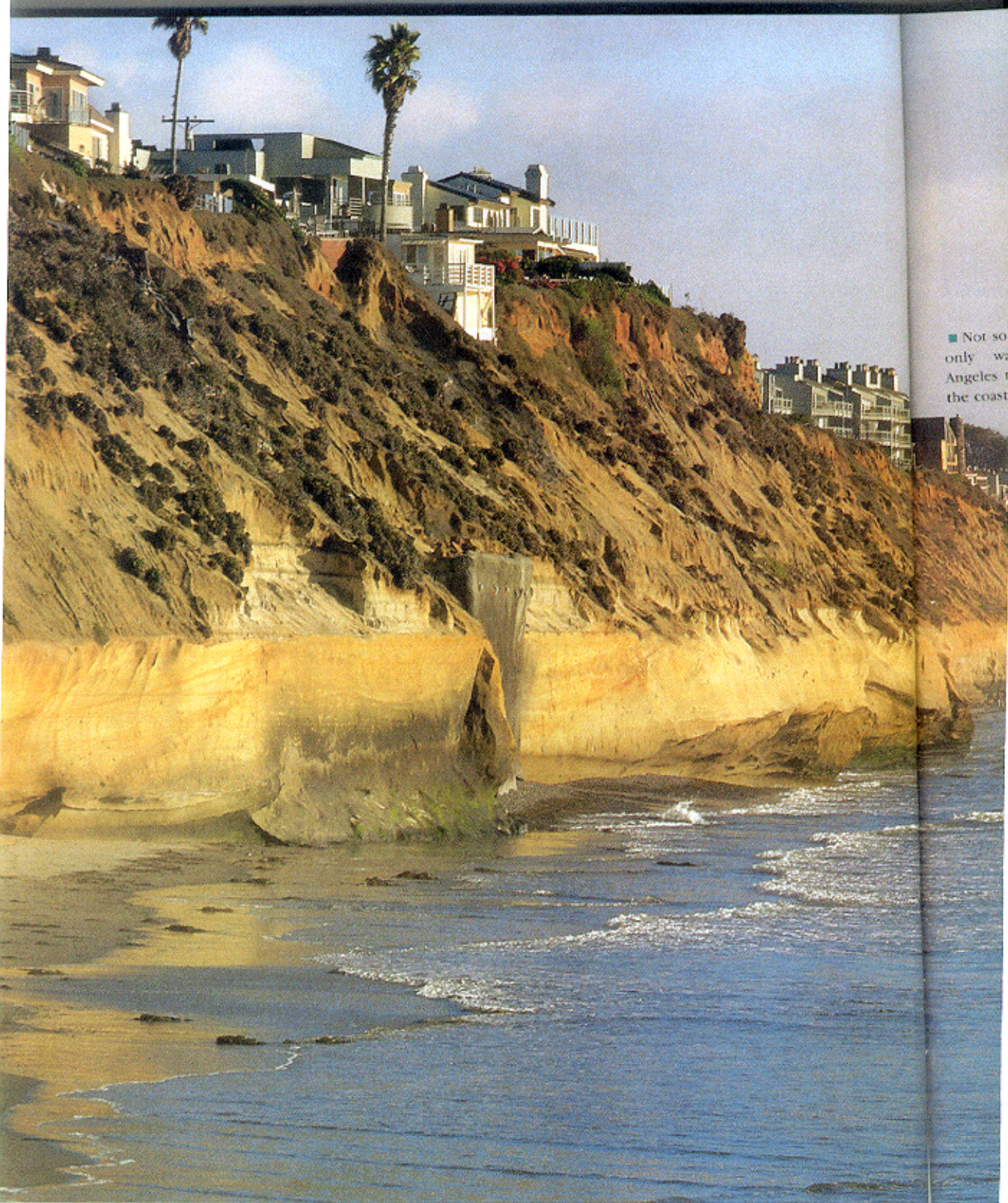
It only makes sense that we need to strengthen the bluffs and not with erodible cement. Those that say the walls cause erosion need only remember the bluffs are seawalls. Does anyone really think that the ocean waves can tell if they are hitting a natural hard sandstone that will wear away in a few years or a natural seawall that man has reinforced with cement and one that will not wear away for 10, 20 or 30 years or indefinitely with proper maintenance? (Look at the enclosed pictures. Which do you prefer? Pages 1 & 2 or pages 3 & 4?)

For optimum protection every soils engineer that I have spoken with tells me that one of the most effective means of protection is riprap. So I would recommend that a single row of riprap be placed all along the front of the bluffs to break up the force of the waves and thus make the waves much less destructive. There would be no loss of 'beach access' because due to safety issues the lifeguards do not want people within 40 feet of those bluffs.

Natural Retreat is nothing more than a proposal from some to do nothing and lose one of the most appealing and most used resources of Solana Beach - our shoreline. Lets Save Our Shoreline in North County. Save the beach that Fletcher carved out of the bluffs so many years ago, so that the people in Solana would be able to enjoy the beach.

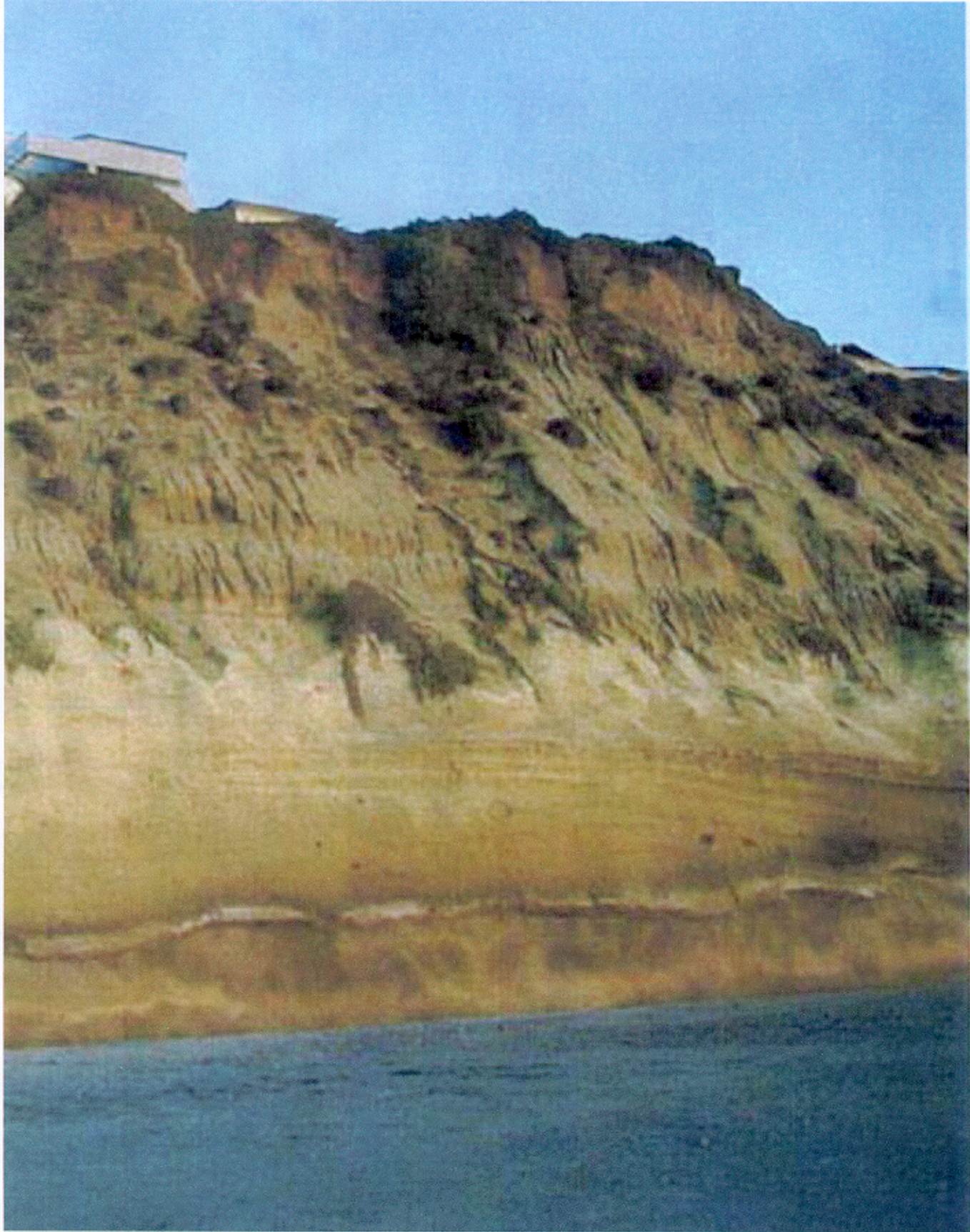
Ann Baker, 219 Pacific Avenue, Solana Beach, CA 92075 858-481-1011

5/10/01



■ Not so
only wa
Angeles to
the coast.

Sol Beach Bluffs featured-Sunset Magazine-Jan. 2000. Will disappear with 'natural retreat' (Shoreline Neglect), Once gone, can never get them back! Low wall can save most of these. Act before it's too late!



Example of a Solana Beach Bluff concrete fill-219 Pacific 11-16-00. Natural retreat will not produce these positive results and will not save these beautiful bluffs nor make them safe.. Time will never bring them back.



'Natural Retreat' produced this collapsed bluff in Encinitas 7-15-1999. Does anyone really think this is the better look? The beauty of these bluffs can never be reproduced once lost by 'natural retreat'. ('Shorline Neglect')



Bluff collapse-5-8-01, 333-337 Pacific. 30 collapses in SB last 30 months. A low seawall or in some cases infills would prevent many of these collapses. The longer we wait the larger the wall needs to be.